

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:HGILMORE:GB

APPROVED BY EUR:WJSTOESSEL, JR.

EUR/EE:JABAKER

EUR/EE:RGJOHNSON

EUR:JAARMITAGE

NEA/IAI:HHSTACKHOUSE (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, YO, IS, SY, EG

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV VIEW OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 200523 NOTAL

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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STOESSEL (EUR) OCTOBER 9 (REFTEL), YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR

GRANFIL RAISED SUBJECT OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN MIDDLE EAST. MIDDLE EAST, SAID GRANFIL, IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YUGOSLAVIA BECAUSE YUGOSLAVIA TOO IS LOCATED IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA. PRESIDENT TITO'S CANCELLATION OF HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO DENMARK (OCTOBER 8-10) ILLUSTRATES SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENT CONFLICT FOR YUGOSLAVIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO GRANFIL'S QUERY WHETHER US BELIEVED SOLUTION TO CONFLICT COULD BE FOUND, STOESSEL SAID IT IS MATTER OF URGENCY THAT PARTIES MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHAT THE SOLUTION WILL BE. UNSC MEETINGS ARE CONTINUING, BUT SO FAR THERE SEEMS TO BE NO AGREEMENT ON STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN. US BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY TO STOP FIGHTING AND TO CREATE CLIMATE IN WHICH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE HELD.

3. ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAVIA WAS SURPRISED AT DATE CONFLICT BEGAN, RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES WAS, IN GOY VIEW, INEVITABLE, SAID GRANFIL. INTERNAL SITUATION IN ARAB COUNTRIES HAD BECOME VERY COMPLICATED AND EXPLOSIVE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ARABS TO WATCH ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PRESIDENT TITO HAD WARNED WORLD LEADERS SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST YEAR THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WAIT ANOTHER SIX YEARS FOR GENUINE SETTLEMENT. YUGOSLAVIA KNOWS, HOWEVER, THAT ITS "ARAB FRIENDS" ARE READY TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT GUARANTEEING SECURITY, INCLUDING RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES, AND PASSAGE THROUGH SUEZ FOR ISRAEL. REGULATION OF OTHER "SMALLER ITEMS" WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. YUGOSLAVIA IS UNABLE TO INTERVENE IN PRESENT CONFLICT. HOWEVER, YUGOSLAVIA HOPES US WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT.

4. STOESSEL NOTED THAT US DOES NOT CONSIDER DESIRABLE OR FEASIBLE A SOLUTION IMPOSED FROM OUTSIDE. NEVERTHELESS, US WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CALM THE PRESENT SITUATION.

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5. LATER IN DAY, YUGOSLAV PRESS COUNSELOR NOVAKOVIC CAME TO DEPARTMENT TO PRESENT OFFICIAL GOY STATEMENT ON OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN MIDDLE EAST (TANJUG RELEASE DATED OCTOBER 7). IN COMMENT TO DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TO WHOM HE GAVE IT (DIRECTOR, NEA/IAI, AND COUNTRY OFFICER FOR YUGOSLAVIA) HE NOTED THAT IT DOES NOT SPECIFY WHICH SIDE WAS FIRST TO MOVE. ARABS MAY HAVE INITIATED HOSTILITIES. EVEN SO, THEY ARE FIGHTING AGAINST "AGGRESSION" BECAUSE

THEY ARE FIGHTING TO LIBERATE PORTIONS OF THEIR NATIONAL TERRITORIES WHICH WERE SEIZED BY ISRAELI AGGRESSION. NEA/IAI DIRECTOR SAID OUR VIEW IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV STATEMENT. HE NOTED THAT UN TRUCE OBSERVERS HAD REPORTED INITIAL MILITARY MOVEMENT WAS FROM ARAB SIDE. THIS IS A VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS OF 1970 AND OF EARLIER CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS.

6. SPEAKING MORE PERSONALLY, NOVAKOVIC ADVANCED VIEW THAT BOTH SUPERPOWERS HAD BEEN OVERLY COMPLACENT ABOUT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. THEY REGARDED ABSENCE OF SHOOTING AS SATISFACTORY AND FAILED TO MOUNT A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE LASTING RESOLUTION OF SITUATION. CURRENT EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST DEMONSTRATE THAT ALTHOUGH DETENTE IS A FINE THING, IT IS VERY FRAGILE UNLESS IT IS DETENTE FOR ALL PEOPLES. KISSINGER

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